

are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Appelt in view of Nguyen (US 5,477,933). Claims 9 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Appelt in view of Distefano (US 6,309,915 B1). Claims 13-19 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Appelt in view of Sheppard (US 6,284,569 B1).

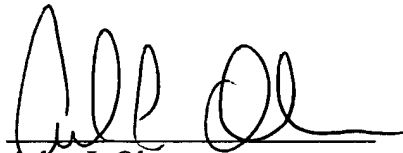
Applicants respectfully assert that the references, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention as required under §§102(b) and 103(a). Additionally, Applicants assert that the Office has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness in support of the §103(a) rejections. For example, none of the references, individually or in combination, teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a plurality of alternating contacts, or alternately off-set contacts, on a first and a second surface of the connector, as required by claims 1, 20, 31 and 37 of the present invention.

In contrast, Appelt teaches a plurality of solder balls 612 on a first surface of the carrier 610 and a plurality of C4 connections 631 on a second surface of the carrier 610, but the solder balls 612 and the C4 connections 531 have no alternating pattern. Rather, the solder balls 612 and the C4 connections 531 of Appelt are spaced with no regard as to producing alternating contacts on a first and second surface of the carrier.

The other references cited by the Office fail to remedy the deficiencies of Appelt. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner believe anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, or if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be advantageous to resolve the issues presented, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Olsen', written over a horizontal line.

Arlen L. Olsen  
Reg. No. 37,543

Date: 7-4-2002

Schmeiser, Olsen & Watts  
3 Lear Jet Lane, Suite 201  
Latham, NY 12110  
(518)220-1850  
[aolsen@iplawusa.com](mailto:aolsen@iplawusa.com)

## **Appendix**

1. (Amended) An electronic device, comprising:

a first substrate;

a second substrate; and

a flexible connector attached between the first and second substrates by a plurality of alternating contacts on a first and a second surface of the connector.

6. (Amended) The electronic device of claim 4, further including a connection [layer] between at least one contact on the first surface and at least one contact on the second surface.

7. (Amended) The electronic device of claim 6, further including a ground shield over the connection [layer].

20. (Amended) A connector system, comprising:

a flexible substrate;

a plurality of contacts [formed] on a first surface of the substrate; and

a plurality of contacts [formed] on a second surface of the substrate, wherein [select] the contacts on the first surface of the substrate are alternatingly off-set from [select] the contacts on the second surface of the substrate.

24. (Amended) The connector system of claim 22, further including a connection [layer] between

at least one contact on the first surface and at least one contact on the second surface.

25. (Amended) The connector system of claim 22, further including a ground shield over the connection [layer].

31. (Amended) A method of forming an electronic device, comprising:

providing a flexible connector having a plurality of alternating contacts on a first surface and [a plurality of contacts on] a second surface of the flexible connector; and

attaching the flexible connector between a first substrate and a second substrate via the contacts.

37. (Amended) A method of forming an electronic device, comprising:

providing a first substrate;

providing a second substrate;

providing a flexible connector having a plurality of alternating contacts on a first surface [of the connector and a plurality of contacts on] and a second surface of the connector[, wherein select contacts on the first and second surface of the connector are off-set]; and

attaching the contacts on the first surface of the connector to the first substrate and the contacts on the second surface of the connector to the second substrate.

42. (New) A method of forming an electronic device, comprising:

providing a flexible connector having a plurality of alternating contacts on a first surface

and a second surface of the flexible connector, and a stiffener frame surrounding a perimeter edge of the flexible connector; and

attaching the flexible connector between a first substrate and a second substrate via the contacts.

43. (New) A connector system, comprising:

a flexible substrate; and

a plurality of contacts formed on a first surface and a second surface of the substrate, wherein the contacts are alternatingly off-set by a width of the contacts.